

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

Forest Stand Improvement

(Acre)

Code 666

DEFINITION

Removing unmerchantable or unwanted trees, shrubs or vines from wooded areas.

PURPOSES

To fully use the potential of a site; to maintain plant cover for soil protection; to improve stand composition by leaving the best trees, spaced for best growth; or to improve the natural beauty, wildlife, or recreation values of an area.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

In a woodland where a stand of trees is overstocked or where desirable trees are overtopped by defective, deformed or less desirable trees, shrubs or vines; where removing part of a stand will improve stand quality, or the recreation, wildlife, aesthetic, or hydrologic values of an area.

CRITERIA

None available.

CONSIDERATIONS

If herbicides are handled or applied improperly or if unused portions are not disposed of safely, they may be injurious to humans, domestic animals, desirable plants, fish or other wildlife, and they may contaminate nearby crops, and

other vegetation. Follow directions and heed all precautions listed on the container label.

Water Quantity

1. Effects on the components of the water budget.

2. Effects on other water uses or users.

Water Quality

1. Effects on erosion and the movement of sediment and soluble and sediment-attached substances carried by runoff or ground water recharge.

2. Effects of pesticides on surface or ground water quality.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Remove or deaden the hollow, deformed, fire-scarred, non-saleable or undesirable trees, shrubs or vines. Cutting, girdling, or use of chemicals may accomplish this.

This practice also includes the removal or treatment of low-value species to favor high quality trees. Commercial use and local demand will govern what species are considered of low value and/or weed trees.

Leave an untreated 50-foot strip of woodland adjacent to open fields, highways, or open water areas. This strip will provide wind protection for the rest of the woodland; serve as an excellent

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

food and cover site for wildlife, and contribute much to the beauty of the community. Plants such as dogwood, redbud, viburnums, black gum, sugar maple, serviceberry, sassafras, sumac, virginia creeper, bittersweet, etc., should be encouraged in the woods border area.

The cutting or killing of vines should be accomplished where vines are interfering with growth of trees having commercial value. Some vines have high wildlife value and should not be removed from dead, cull trees, and ones being chemically killed.

This practice may also include the removal of heavy shrub cover in present woodland openings or in openings created by harvest cutting, when the shrubs seriously compete with desirable reproduction. This involves species such as hawthorns, spice bush, paw-paw, prickly ash, hercules club, etc.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Operations and maintenance requirements are not applicable for this practice.